

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Republic Paperboard Company

Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence

Six Sigma Improves Efficiency And Quality At Republic Paperboard Company

Client Profile:

Republic Paperboard Company, located in Lawton, Oklahoma, manufactures the facing and back paper for gypsum wallboard. The 40 year-old company employs 140 people.

Situation:

As a player in an ever-competitive industry, Republic Paperboard Company (Republic) knows that efficiency is the key to survival. The company asked the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence (the Alliance), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to develop a plan to correct technical problems and improve the company's profitability.

Solution:

The Alliance arranged reduced-cost Six Sigma training for four key Republic employees. Their subsequent implementation projects increased the company's efficiency and allowed the plant to produce greater volumes of a better product. The company plans to develop new product lines to fill excess machine time. The Alliance designed an improved production flow and corrected technical problems, which led to increased sales and an improved bottom line.

Results:

Operating above peak output.

Increased mill production of premium product from 625 tons a day to 750 tons a day.

Realized \$2 million in annual cost savings.

Realized \$20 million in annual increased sales.

Testimonial:

"The Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence is key to keeping this mill competitive. With all the paper mills that are shutting down in the United States, this is important."

Ron Schenck, Plant Manager